

The Hong Kong Daily Press.

No. 5845 號五十四百三千五第 日八念月一十年戌甲治何 HONGKONG, TUESDAY, 6TH JANUARY, 1876. 二拜禮 號五正月英 港香 [PRICE \$2½ PER MONTH.]

Arrivals.

January 4, Tinner, British str., 1,671, O. H. Eastley, Shanghai January 1st, General—F. & O. S. N. Co.

Departures.

January 4, Providence, str., for Shanghai.
January 4, New Granada, for Chiofo.
January 4, Yotuna, str., for Swatow.
January 4, Elk, (H.M. gun-boat) for England.
January 4, H.M.S. Avon, for England.
January 4, Fort William, for Canton.
January 4, Alder Bass, for New York.
January 4, Novelt, for Saigon.

Clearances.

At the Harbour Master's Office, JANUARY 4TH.
Yotuna, str., for Swatow.
Macy, for San Francisco.
Hedding, str., for Amoy, &c.
Fort William, for Canton.

Passengers.

For Third, str., from Hongkong, for Hongkong, and 69 Chinese, for Bombay, Mr. Sorabjee Carriage and servant, for Southampton—Mr. Palmer.

Reports.

NINE.			
Vessels Expected at Hongkong			
(Corrected List.)			
Vessel's Name	From	Dates	
Alejandro	New York	Feb. 10	
Frances	Shanghai	Feb. 13	
Clouqua	Shanghai	April 3	
Clouqua	Amoy	June 29	
Breana	New York	July 10	
Fomanya	London	July 13	
Charite	Cardiff	Aug. 15	
Maria	Cardiff	Aug. 18	
Palas	Shanghai	Sept. 2	
Invincible	London	Sept. 9	
Fido e Spranza	Swansea	Sept. 14	
Hansa	Cardiff	Sept. 15	
Bonita	Cardiff	Sept. 18	
Varus	Banbury	Sept. 19	
Nankin (a)	London	Sept. 20	
Life Brigade (a)	Shields	Sept. 23	
Finland	Sunderland	Oct. 5	
Miao	London	Oct. 7	
Chusan (a)	Glasgow	Oct. 8	
August Frederick	Swansea	Oct. 13	
Livingston	Kid	Oct. 23	
Green Jacket	Ponarth	Oct. 24	
M. Washington	Boston	Oct. 24	
McNair	Newcastle	Oct. 30	
Clouqua	Shields	Oct. 31	
Eleonor	London	Nov. 4	
Papa	Hamburg	Nov. 5	
Harwich	Liverpool	Nov. 6	
Admiral (a)	Liverpool	Nov. 6	
Anne Dorothea	Swansea	Nov. 8	
Montgomery	London	Nov. 10	
Dorchester	Cardiff	Nov. 11	
Oaks	London	Nov. 12	
Sarpedon (a)	Liverpool	Nov. 13	
Sophia	London	Nov. 13	
Panama	Cardiff	Nov. 13	
Oeyion	London	Nov. 17	

Auction Sales To-day.

NOTICE TO MARINERS.
The Government of Japan publishes on the 15th Month (December) of each year, for the use of Mariner, a
DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF ALL THE LIGHTHOUSES, LIGHT SHIPS, BUOYS, AND BEACONS.
Established by them—giving the characteristic appearance and correct bearings of each.
Mariners are requested to purchase any List except that for the year current at the time of purchase, as changes or corrections may have been made, and no reliance can be placed on any List which has been published for a preceding year.
Copies of the List for the 8th year of Meiji are now for sale from Messrs. LANGE, CRAWFORD & Co., at Yokohama, Shanghai, and Hongkong; from Messrs. KIRBY & Co., at Kobe; from Messrs. ADAMS & Co., at Nagasaki; and also at the Lighthouse Office, Batten, Ceylon.

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPANY.

Corner of Wanchang and Victoria Streets, (Nearby opposite the German Club).
Open daily, Saturdays excepted.
REDUCTION OF PRICES.
After this date and until further notice, Prices will be as follows—
Camera Portraits, (order) for 2 doz. \$4.00
Do. do. do. for 3 doz. 5.00
Do. do. do. for 4 doz. 6.00
Do. do. do. for 5 doz. 7.00
Do. do. do. for 6 doz. 8.00
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Extracts.

UNREMEMBERED.

When the soulless face of summer
Whispered of the happy land,
And the days were long and sunny
From the blue of the sky and land—
Who could have thought that winter
With its cold and frosty hand
Would have come to the heart's door
And the heart's door would stand
Never to be opened again
Never to be opened again
Never to be opened again

AIDS TO IRRESOLUTION.

It is curious to notice how questions which demand the largest and most thoughtful consideration, have been left to the decision of chance. Poor Josephine Clarke, tired of life and everything in it, went one morning a few miles away from London and concealed herself in some foliage by the side of a stream. He determined to leave the question whether he should live any longer or drown himself in the sea of a penny. "Heads," he said, "and I will drown myself; tails, and I will start for that house whence no traveller returns." With a smile he glanced at the water, took a look at the albatross, balanced the coin on his thumb, and then tossed it into the air. It whirled over his head for a few seconds, swept down abruptly and stuck up sideways in the sand. Most men would have understood that as a wonderful sign of God's mercy, but Clarke pretended to think that the penny did not wish to bear the responsibility of his death. So he scribbled an account of the affair in his pocket-book, and in five minutes after threw himself into the water and was drowned.

In old times, as we all know, it was the custom to open Virgil at hazard and read the first line that came under the eye. This test was long in dying out; indeed, being always in some hour with classical scholars, it has not altogether vanished yet. Byron, Matthew, George, and others trusted to the Virgilian lot, and one of them has left an amusing account of how early the oracle frequently answered him. Religious people frequently choose the Bible to settle a question. For example, it is a custom among some when a son is born to take his little hand and select with it out of a bag one of the first twenty-eight verses in the thirty-ninth chapter of Genesis, in order that his future course through life may be studied forth. Many, again, prefer Shakespeare for such oracles. It was once much amused at a trial of my own. Being relieved of a burdensome trial, I was in doubt whether I should be grateful or not. Casually that night, thinking over the matter, I threw wide the ponderous pages of the immortal bard and glanced directly at the centre of the leaf. My glance lighted on the words, "Go, thou to bed. For this relief much thanks." (Hamlet, act i. sc. i.) It is needless to say that I loved instantly.

Rousseau tells us that being at one time in great trouble about the fate of his soul, he suddenly snatched up a stone and exclaimed, "I will not let this affair trouble me any longer. I will hurl the bubble that I have in my hand against that tree. If I miss my aim, I shall know that I am damned; if, on the contrary, I hit the target, I shall know that I am saved." He let fly and struck the tree directly in the centre. Commenting upon the incident, he says facetiously, "The tree was very near, and it was certainly a difficult matter to hit, but from that moment to this I have never felt the least concern about my salvation." This brings to mind Goethe and his knife. Lying on the bank of a stream, his mind wandered gradually upon the subject which had agitated it many times before—namely, whether he should continue to live as a profession. Taking out his pocket-knife, he said, "I will hurl this across to the other shore, and if I see it sink through the sedge, I shall understand that I am to continue at my present occupation; if I do not see it sink, I shall know that I was born to write books. The knife flew over the water and plunged into the reeds, but Goethe had glimpses of it no more. A similar story is told of Lucian. Being put to sleep by his youth, much against his will, on the very first day he broke a marble ball. Of course he was wakened and sent supper and crying to bed. In the very middle of the night, as the most approved ghost-story says, Lucian dreamed that he saw the shades of Scholarship struggling for him. The contest was long and exciting, but in the end Scholarship won. This is a pleasant legend, but connecting the banishment to bed without supper and the subsequent fight, I am rather inclined to suspect that Nightmare had even more to do with the business than the Fate. The moral of what I have written, I suppose, that if we are prompt and decisive in settling the minor questions of daily life, we shall not have inevitable difficulty with those of greater consequence. —W. E. M., in *Lippincott's Magazine*.

FAITHFUL TO DEATH.

Those who use the word "romantic," often by way of denotation, if not of connotation, are mostly ignorant both of what real romance, supposed to be false sentiment, is, and also of the derivation of the word they despise. The word has come down to us from Troubadours, and points to an era when the old Roman language was moulding into the soft Provencal speech, and the Romance, or romantic tongue, was that in which were sung those deeds of chivalry and sentiments of love which made up so large a portion of the civilization of the period. It is very easy to laugh at the notions of the troubadours on the subject of love. They were very different from ours; but they were a tremendous influencing influence on the manners and customs of the age. It is the Provencal historian, was a kind of worship in the chivalric times; and coupled with the influence of the Crusades, regarded as the combined effort of nations for a common unselfish end, this sentiment did a great deal towards transforming the rough warriors of the Middle Ages into the polished citizens of our own time. What the cross did for the community, love, or romance, if we like to use the term, did for the individual. Among the love-stories of the Provencal, the story of Geoffrey Ridel stands prominent as an extraordinary instance of pure, unselfish, romantic love for a lady whom the lover had never seen. It is so remarkable that the story respecting which have come down to us can hardly fail to interest.

Geoffrey Ridel was Prince of Blaia, or Blaye, near Bordeaux; and only followed the custom of his age when he joined the ranks of the Troubadour poets. It was then the mode for the greatest to write verses, as it was at a later period in our own history, to compose that every polished gentleman should be able to sing.

Triplid had been taken by the Christians in the course of the first Crusade, and still held by them, when Geoffrey Ridel was sent to the beauty and virtue of the Countess of Tripoli by pilgrims returning from the East. Their descriptions worked so upon the imagination of Geoffrey Ridel that he fell violently in love with her, and determined that he himself would assume the cross. Before embarking he wrote the following ode to his unseen love.

"I love a form whose name I do not know
In deep devotion never did I rove
To see or touch the woman who—
Who e'er could prove his fantasy?
And yet I know her brightly best.
The dark-eyed Saracens who fill
Her waiting court are not more warm;
Her waiting court are not more warm;
The Jewish maid have eyes that kill,
And Christian girls are beautiful, still
None equal that radiant form.

"Each night I see her in my dreams,
And stretch my hands to make her stay—
So beautiful her image seems—
That the dawn's morning beams
The happy vision hides away.
"I love my eyes; the truth I own,
She dwells within a country fair.
To gain that distant land I burn
To see her once more, though I do not care
To follow her—my guiding star.
"With love for chart I'll seek her land;
Love, do thou speed my course, I pray!
With pilgrim's garb my form is clad,
While heart and soul are far away.
The pilgrim staff to guide my way
I dare not hope that it will fail
My happy questing I may find
In thought and prayer I'll find
At least I know my danger well
Will not leave her so far behind.
"Heaven grant me but the blindest lot
Heaven grant me but the blindest lot
Let me be blind, but let me know
She dwells in, though I enter not,
My life is lost, I go—I go!

"Since then, I feel I could not die
Still my heart's love she still will be;
If I found plain she will not leave,
I must confess myself, I feel,
Born to a hopeless love affair.
"If not—let, though in holy case
If not—let, though in holy case
If I found plain she will not leave,
I must confess myself, I feel,
Born to a hopeless love affair.

One night almost dead, from the eighth year of his life, that Ridel had some presentiments of what had to follow. He embarked for the East, and was about to land at Tripoli, when he was seized with sudden and deadly sickness. He was borne ashore, and information was given to the Countess of his extraordinary adventure and present condition. She was touched with the knowledge of having kindled love in the breast of one who had never seen her, and came at once to see him who had cherished so unusual a sentiment. Geoffrey was still breathing; she embraced him, and the one wish of his life was granted—he died in her arms, praising God, says the historian, and thanking Him for having granted him the object of his desires. The Countess, it is added, caused him to be sumptuously interred among the Templars of Tripoli, and herself afterwards entered a cloister.

It has been truly said that this reads like a story. It is romance, if we will, but none the less history. An old Provencal fragment by an unknown author, says, "I saw Count Geoffrey Ridel crossing the sea to behold his lady-love, willingly did for her." Petrarch also says, "Geoffrey Ridel went to seek death by force of sail and oar." Nostradamus commences his series of biographies with what of Geoffrey Ridel, and relates his connection with Count Geoffrey, brother of Richard King of England, whose services he had rendered when he was a young man, but ill-starred expedition. The quaint old chronicler tells how, after Ridel's death, the Countess made herself acquainted with "soutre la poeie et Romanesque qu'il avoit faict a sa langue, qu'elle fist transcrire en belle lettre d'or." One might well exclaim, after reading the recital of Ridel's faithfulness till death, in the words of Rabelais, "Now that was like a lover." Well indeed, too, might the lady who was the object of such unselfish affection cause the records thereof to be written "in letters all of gold."

Insurances.

QUEEN FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

THE Undersigned are prepared to GRANT POLICIES AGAINST FIRE to the extent of £40,000 on Buildings or on Goods stored therein; at Current Local Rates, subject to a Discount of 5% on the premium.

EDWARD NORTON & Co., Agents.

at 8 Hongkong, January, 1876.

LONDON AND PROVINCIAL MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY.

THE Undersigned having been appointed Agents for the above Company, are prepared to grant Marine risks at current rates.

AUGUSTINE HEARD & Co., Agents.

at 471 Hongkong, 1st March, 1874.

COMMERCIAL UNION ASSURANCE COMPANY.

THE Undersigned, Agents at Hongkong for the above Company's Fire Department, are prepared to GRANT POLICIES against fire to the extent of £100,000 on Buildings, or on Goods stored therein, at current rates, subject to an immediate discount of Twenty per cent.

THE BORNEO COMPANY, LIMITED.

at 780 Hongkong, 20th May, 1874.

LIVERPOOL AND LONDON GLOBE INSURANCE COMPANY.

FROM this date, until further notice, a discount of Twenty per cent. (20%) will be allowed upon the current local rate of premium will be allowed upon insurances effected with this Company.

DOUGLAS LAURA & Co., Agents.

at 1183 Hongkong, 23rd June, 1872.

TRANSATLANTIC FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY OF HAMBURG.

THE Undersigned having been appointed Agents for the above Company, are prepared to accept risks against fire at current rates, subject to a bonus of 20 per cent.

SIEMSEN & Co., Agents.

at 39 Hongkong, 24th November, 1872.

CHINESE INSURANCE COMPANY, (LIMITED).

POLICIES granted at current rates on Marine Risks to all parts of the World. In accordance with the Company's Articles of Association, Two-thirds of the Profits are distributed annually to Contributory, whether Shareholders or not, in proportion to the amount of Premium contributed by each, the remaining third being carried to Reserve Fund.

OLYMPIAN & Co., Agents.

at 551 Hongkong, 17th April, 1876.

Insurances.

ROYAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

THE Undersigned having been appointed Agents for the above Company, are prepared to GRANT INSURANCES at Current Rates.

MELCHERS & Co., Agents.

at 1780 Hongkong, 22nd October, 1874.

THE SECOND COLONIAL SEA AND FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY OF BATAVIA.

THE Undersigned, having been appointed Agents in Hongkong for the above Company, are prepared to GRANT INSURANCES at Current Rates.

SIEMSEN & Co., Agents.

at 1028 Hongkong, 1st July, 1874.

THE SWISS LLOYD'S TRANSPORT INSURANCE COMPANY.

Subscribed Capital, £1,000,000. Co-insurance with *Swiss Lloyd's*, £1,000,000. French Company, Paris, £1,000,000.

THE Undersigned, having been appointed Agents for the above Company, are prepared to grant Policies on Marine Risks to all parts of the World, at current rates, subject to a discount of 15% on all other risks.

VOGEL, HAGEDORN & Co., Agents.

at 1048 Hongkong, 1st September, 1874.

IMPERIAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

THE Undersigned, Agents for the above Company, are prepared to grant Policies against fire to the extent of £50,000 on any one.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

At Current Rates.

A Discount of Twenty per cent. (20%) will be made on the premium charged on all insurances, such Bonus being payable on the issue of the Policy.

GIBB, LIVINGSTON & Co., Agents.

at 333 Hongkong, 1st March, 1874.

YANGTSE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION OF SHANGHAI.

NOTICE.

ON and after this date the above Association will allow a Brokerage of THIRTY-THREE AND ONE-HALF PER CENT. (33 1/2%) on Local Risks only.

RUSSELL & Co., Agents.

at 1800 Hongkong, 4th June, 1874.

BATAVIA SEA AND FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

THE Undersigned, having been appointed Agents for the above Company, are prepared to grant insurances as follows:—

MARINE RISKS.

Policies at current rates, payable either here, in London, or at the principal ports of India, Australia, and the East.

A Brokerage of THIRTY-THREE AND ONE-HALF PER CENT. will be allowed on all LOCAL RISKS.

FIRE RISKS.

Policies granted on First-class Buildings to an extent of £20,000.

A Discount of Twenty per cent. (20%) will be made on the premium charged on all insurances, such Bonus being payable on the issue of the Policy.

RUSSELL & Co., Agents.

at 1 Hongkong, 1st January, 1874.

NORTH BRITISH AND MERCANTILE INSURANCE COMPANY.

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER AND SPECIAL ACT OF PARLIAMENT.

Established 1809.

CAPITAL—£2,000,000.

THE Undersigned, Agents at Hongkong for the above Company, are prepared to grant Policies against fire to the extent of £10,000 on any Building, or on Merchandise in the same, at the following rates, subject to a discount of 20%.

Detached and semi-detached buildings, as above, will be allowed at the following rates, subject to a discount of 20%.

Other Dwellings houses, used strictly as such, and their contents, at 1% per cent. per annum.

God's own Office, Shops, &c., and their contents, at 1% per cent. per annum.

SHORT PERIOD INSURANCES.

Not exceeding ten days, &c. of the annual rate.

Not exceeding one month, &c. of the annual rate.

Above 1 month, &c. of the annual rate.

Above 3 months, &c. of the annual rate.

Above 6 months, &c. of the annual rate.

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Other Dwellings houses, used strictly as such, and their contents, at 1% per cent. per annum.

God's own Office, Shops, &c., and their contents, at 1% per cent. per annum.

SHORT PERIOD INSURANCES.

Not exceeding ten days, &c. of the annual rate.

Insurances.

MANCHESTER FIRE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

THE Undersigned, having been appointed Agents for the above Company, are prepared to GRANT INSURANCES at Current Rates.

MELCHERS & Co., Agents.

at 1780 Hongkong, 22nd October, 1874.

HOLIDAY, WISE & Co.

THE Undersigned, having been appointed Agents for the above Company, are prepared to GRANT INSURANCES at Current Rates.

SIEMSEN & Co., Agents.

at 1028 Hongkong, 1st July, 1874.

THE LONDON ASSURANCE.

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER OF HIS MAJESTY KING GEORGE THE FIRST, A.D. 1720.

THE Undersigned, having been appointed Agents for the above Corporation, are prepared to grant insurances as follows:—

MARINE DEPARTMENT.

Policies at current rates, payable either here, in London, or at the principal ports of India, China, and Australia.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Policies issued for long or short periods at current rates.